

Recently another example of a media group namely, 'Pappas Telecasting Companies', misusing its free access to the public airwaves has come to my attention. Specifically, their 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates seems highly questionable, as I was under the impression that they were legally obligated to serve the public interest.

The public interest is obviously not served when media conglomerates give such 'donations' to only one side in an election. It is also not in the interest of local communities when corporate headquarters through such 'donations' tilt the balance toward those they prefer. Are they trying to win the election for those who will support their agenda? It certainly presents this appearance.

The public airwaves are free to Pappas and if they wish to further political dialogue, they should give free air time to candidates of both parties.

This example and that of Sinclair Broadcasting are just two of many which show why media companies should not be allowed to own more stations and why media ownership rules should be strenthened.

Additionally, license renewal should be a serious process, a station's failure to serve the public interest should be grounds for failure to renew the license. If you are not serious about your responsibility to the public, I fear all media and our democracy itself will be undermined.

Thank-you